GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1311
ANSWERED ON:27.10.2008
RURAL GODOWNS
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the norms prescribed for construction of rural godowns;

(b) whether the said norms are being strictly followed in the construction of new godowns;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the total number of rural godowns in the country alongwith the number of godowns built during Tenth Plan Period, State-wise; and

(e) the number of godowns proposedto be constructed during the Eleventh Plan alongwith the funds allocated for the purpose?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a): The Operational Guidelines of the Central Sector scheme of Construction/ Renovation of Rural Godowns being implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture provide that the Rural Godowns built under the scheme shall be structurally sound on account of engineering considerations and functionally suitable to store the agricultural produce. The general conditions for scientific construction are as follows:

(i) The construction of godown shall be as per Central Public Works Department / State Public Works Department specifications or any other standard specifications laid down in this behalf. The godown shall be properly ventilated, shall have well fitted doors, windows and ventilators and shall be waterproof (control of moisture from floor, walls and roof etc.)

(ii) The godown structure shall have protection from rodents.

(iii) The godown shall have protection from birds (windows / ventilators with jali).

(iv) The openings of godown such as doors, windows etc. shall be designed in such a manner that the godown can be sealed for effective fumigation etc.

(v) The godown complex shall have an easy approach road, pucca internal roads, proper drainage, arrangements for effective control against fire and theft and also have arrangements for easy loading and unloading of stocks.

(b) & (c): The construction norms prescribed under the above scheme are strictly followed. Before release of the final subsidy, a Joint Monitoring Committee consisting of members from the funding bank, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) and Directorate of Marketing and Inspection, Faridabad physically verifies the status of rural godown constructed under the scheme in comparison to the norms prescribed in the operational guidelines of the scheme.

(d): 14368 rural godown projects having a capacity of 182.18 lakh MTs have been sanctioned all over the country by NABARD / National Cooperative Development Cooperation. A statement indicating the State-wise progress is attached (Annexure-I).

(e): A target for creation of 90 lakh MT capacity with a Central allocation of Rs.450 crores has been approved during XI Plan.